

Conservation Commission	September 12, 2023
Town of Hampton Falls	Town Hall

## DRAFT

### A. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Ms. Hill, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:35pm

### B. ROLL CALL

- a. **Present:** Mary Ann Hill, Chair, Shawn Hanson, Ann Reis, Robert Wiener, Cathy Golas, Karen Ayers, alternate (not a voting member) Lou Gargiulo, Selectman's Rep
- b. **Absent:** Paul Melanson, Nancy Roka, alternate
- c. **Staff:** Brianna O'Brien
- d. Beverly Mutrie was also in attendance

### C. NEW BUSINESS

- a. 2024 Budget
  - i. The Commission discussed adding a third intern into the budget. Mr. Hanson did not support the idea.
  - ii. Ms. Golas motioned to submit the 2024 budget with an increase in the intern line to pay three interns to a total of \$14,800. Ms. Reis seconded. Mr. Hanson opposed. Vote 4-1.
  - iii. Ms. Hill mentioned sending out the Homeowners Guide to all new Hampton Falls homeowners. The Commission agreed. There are about 40 sales a year.
- b. RCCD Would like to donate 5 marsh parcels to the Town- Three are on Map 3 two of them are on Map 2. There are map and lot numbers for all of them. Some of them abut parcels the Town already has and two do not. There is a total of 29 acres. The Commission needs to forward them to the Selectboard to consider. Mr. Hanson will seek out someone to do the deeding. It was discussed whether RCCD would do the deeding.
- c. Ms. O'Brien briefly summarized the preliminary ordinance audit she did of Hampton Falls Wetlands Ordinances from the perspective of adding a Town Wetland Permit as Ms. Hill had mentioned earlier in the year. The process will require a warrant article. The Commission will have to consider what they want to do. Ms. O'Brien will send the material she has put together.

### D. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Raspberry Farm and Marsh Lane:
  - i. Mr. Hanson will update the kiosks at Raspberry Farm and Marsh Lane with the new maps and hunting dates.
  - ii. The Commission needs someone to weed whack Raspberry Farm and mow Marsh Lane.
    - 1. Ms. Golas will weed whack Raspberry Farm but can't mow.
    - 2. Mr. Gargiulo suggested adding these areas to the Town's landscaping contract. There is a line item in the Commission's budget that can be used to pay for it.

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- iii. There are some trees that need to come down because they are dangerous. The road agent can take care of them.
- b. Interns' activities wrap up- The interns took baseline measurements of all the ditches in the marsh. They will present their findings at the Hampton Seabrook Estuary Collaborative meeting in September.
- c. Project for Eagle scout- He will likely be doing an educational kiosk at the Depot; he has been in touch with Jay Diener from SHEA.
- d. Greenhead traps storage
  - i. The storage container is not available this year because shelving is being put in. The Commission may not be able to use it with shelving. The Town Administrator wants the Commission to put them back at the dump under tarps. D. Gandt has passed the green head trap project to Kerry Rich for next year.
  - ii. Ms. Hill mentioned that because there are items scattered around members' homes and at the Town Hall, should the Commission consider a storage unit? The Commission discussed that they should assess the cost of putting out the traps and storage versus having areas sprayed by Dragon. The Commission has a quote from Dragon. An 8'x8'x20' used storage unit is \$5,000. The Commission decided to get more details about the cost of Dragon, the cost of a storage unit, and the capacity of storage needed.
- e. Turtle crossing signs: The list of locations was decided at a previous meeting. The road agent can install them. This will happen next year.
- f. Vernal pool inventory – A teacher at LAS who used to work for NOAA may be interested in doing a vernal pool inventory with her students.
- g. Banner vs. sandwich board- There is an easel in the Commission's room that can be used to hold a sign when tabling or doing other events. The Commission discussed if a banner is better. The Commission decided on getting a sign.
  - i. Ms. O'Brien will make several design options for the Commission to review. The size should be around 20"x32".

## **E. COMMUNICATION TO BOARD MEMBERS**

- a. Planning Board- The Planning Board spoke about the Heritage recommendations that Ms. Mutrie wrote a letter about. There was also a discussion about fireworks. The Selectman wants to do a Selectman's Ordinance and the Planning Board wants to do a Warrant.
- b. SHEA- SHEA is hosting a photography seminar tomorrow night at 7pm in preparation for The National Estuary Week Photography Contest. On September 23rd SHEA is hosting a kayaking tour of the estuary at Depot Rd. There is an upcoming meeting in October to go over the implementation goals from the Estuary Management Plan. Hunter Stetz has written up a proposal to do a salt marsh hay stattle for an educational demonstration. The location has not been decided. SHEA is supportive of the idea.
- c. Upcoming meetings and webinars:

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- i. Library pollinator talk Wednesday, September 13 at 6:30
- ii. September 27, 11 AM, HSE Collaborative meeting
- iii. September 22, 8 AM real estate disclosure – considering adding flooding issues when listing properties

**F. FINANCIAL**

**a. Expenditures to vote on:**

- i. \$45 to ESRI for interns
  - 1. Mr. Hanson motioned to pay the ESRI bill for \$45. Ms. Golas seconded. Vote 5-0.
- ii. \$100 for 1/3 share of SHEA photo awards
  - 1. Mr. Hanson motioned to pay \$100 for 1/3 share of the SHEA photo contest award. Ms. Reis. Vote 5-0
- iii. Reimburse Cathy Golas \$263.88 for turtle signs
  - 1. Mr. Hanson motioned to reimburse Ms. Golas. Mr. Wiener seconded. Vote 5-0
- iv. Fund Bal: \$161,964.49, includes interest
- v. Budget Balance: \$3,936.03
- vi. Conservation Land Capital Reserve Fund beg. Bal. \$45,148.67 Current Balance ~ \$92,000.

**G. MINUTES**

- a. July 11, 2023 minutes
  - i. Mr. Hanson motioned to accept the July 11, 2023. Mr. Wiener seconded. Vote 5-

**H. ADJOURNMENT**

- a. MTA Mr. Hanson 7:40pm Mr. Weiner.